

Letter from John Albert Macy to Alexander Graham Bell, April 4, 1903

6 Everett Hall, Cambridge. April 4, 1903. My dear Dr. Bell—

I have had many kind letters about the book, none that made me feel as your letter did that I had done the work well. When you say that I have done something to make Miss Sullivan's work prevail, that I have helped to present her principles, you hand me the laurel wreath I covet. I know and Miss Sullivan knows that the letters are there because I fought for them at the risk of making myself a nuisance. That will justify me as editor of the book, however badly I have done the work in detail. I have written two articles driving Miss Sullivan's principles home, one for the New York Post, the other for the World's Work. I do not know yet if either will be printed, but if they are they will help.

I will remember what you say about the appendix in which may be put together the most significant sentences from Miss Sullivan's reports and letters. One other thing I shall try to do, set forth in the proper place the fact that you had taught and in large measure tried the principles before Miss Sullivan did, though, of course she did not know of your work then and she is none the less a discoverer. What I said said on page 378 about her method never having been tried or formulated before is too unfair to your work to stand (of course, I realize that you are the last teacher in the world to care for credit, but the facts ought to be set down squarely), When I wrote that, I was thinking of what had really preceded Miss Sullivan that she knew about, Dr. Howe's work, and it is true that from him she strikes off along new roads, though you had been there too.

With gratitude and best wishes, I am Yours sincerely, John Albert Macy